In re Patent Application of:
COOPER
Serial No: **10/775,962**
Filing Date: **February 10, 2004**

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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. Applicant acknowledges the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection based upon co-pending application no. 10/775,674, which is assigned to the Assignee of the present application, TeamOn Systems, Inc. Applicant filed a Terminal Disclaimer in the '674 application on September 1, 2005, to overcome the double patenting rejection thereof based upon the present application. As such, it is respectfully requested that the double patenting rejection of the present application be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter thereof over the prior art. Support for the amendments may be found in paragraphs 0021-0024 of the originally filed specification, for example. No new matter is being added.

In view of the amendments and the supporting arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable.

I. The Claimed Invention

The present invention is directed to a communications system. As recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example, the system includes a plurality of communications devices connected together in a network and having a plurality of user accounts associated therewith. At least one of the communications devices processes requests using a hypertext transfer protocol

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(HTTP) client application associated therewith. The system further includes an application server for accessing the user accounts via the HTTP client application, and an HTTP server for interfacing the HTTP client application with the application server. The HTTP server and the HTTP client application format requests to be communicated therebetween in an HTTP format via the Internet, and each provides additional state information with the HTTP formatted requests recognizable by the other for authenticating the application server and the HTTP client application to one another. In addition, the HTTP client application accepts work jobs from the application server by sending a GET request to a first universal resource locator (URL) associated with the HTTP server. Moreover, the client application responds to the work jobs from the application server by sending a POST request with results for the work jobs to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with the HTTP server.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to a similar communications system, and independent Claim 11 is directed to a related method. These claims have been amended similarly to Claim 1 to recite that the HTTP client application accepts work jobs from the application server by sending a GET request to a first URL associated with the HTTP server, and responds to the work jobs from the application server by sending a POST request with results for the work jobs to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with the HTTP server.

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II.   The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 7, and 11 over U.S. Patent No. 6,775,687 to Binding et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0117615 to O'Donnell et al. The Binding et al. patent is directed to a method for exchanging supplemental information fields between a client and server. The supplemental information is then used by the server to complete a client's GET request for content stored at a particular location. The supplemental information may be used to provide a customized response, or for access control to sensitive data. The server instructs the client to provide the supplemental information to a separate URL via an HTTP or Wireless Session Protocol (WSP) REDIRECT message.

O'Donnell et al. is directed to an access Web site which allows a client application to access a server application on behalf of a subscriber who has an account at a client site. The Examiner contends that this reference teaches a plurality of communications devices having a plurality of user accounts associated therewith, and an application server for accessing the user accounts via the HTTP client application, as recited in the above-noted independent claims.

The Examiner points to FIG. 3C and the associated text at col. 8, line 58 through col. 9, line 5, and col. 10, lines 46-49 of Binding et al. In particular, the Examiner notes that FIG. 3C illustrates a client **300** initially sending an HTTP GET request **310** for a particular Web page to the server **305'** at a first URL "xyz." See col. 7, lines 18-33 of Binding et al. The server **305'**

determines that supplemental information (e.g., a password) is required from the client **300**, and thus sends a response to the client in the form of a REDIRECT message **312** which includes a URL "abc" and a request header identifying the supplemental information that the server is requesting from the client. See col. 8, lines 12-13 and col. 9, lines 1-5. The client **300** responds to the REDIRECT message **312** by sending a subsequent GET request **324** to the redirected URL which includes the reply header and a subset of the supplemental information requested by the server. See col. 9, lines 29-34.

Accordingly, the client **300** is merely sending a GET request for a certain Web page to the server **305'**, and then sending a subsequent GET request for the same Web page to the redirected URL but with the supplemental information (e.g., a password) required by the server. Stated alternately, the server is simply causing a typical redirect of the client's GET request (a typical HTTP REDIRECT points the client to another location for the requested information), but with some supplemental information in the second GET request.

In stark contrast, the above-noted independent claims have been revised to recite that the HTTP client application accepts work jobs from the application server by sending a <u>GET request</u> to a first universal resource locator (URL) associated with the HTTP server, and responds to the work jobs from the application server by sending a <u>POST request</u> with results for the work jobs to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with the HTTP server. The client **300** of Binding et al.

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is not accepting or processing any work jobs from the server
305'. Rather, the client **300** is simple re-sending its GET request
to a different URL with additional information needed for the
server to complete the request, NOT with results for any work job
received from an application server. Moreover, the client **300**
uses an HTTP GET request to provide the supplemental information
to the server **305'**, NOT a POST request as is commonly used by a
server for providing job results back to a client.

As such, the claimed invention may advantageously
provide a "reverse" client-server relationship which allows the
application server and HTTP server to access the HTTP client for
performing desired work jobs despite the HTTP client being within
a protected computer environment (e.g., behind a firewall), for
example. See, e.g., paragraphs 0012 and 0018 of the originally
filed specification.

Accordingly, the prior art fails to teach or fairly
suggest all of the elements recited in independent Claims 1, 7,
and 11, which are therefore patentable. Their respective
dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing
features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no
further discussion herein.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of foregoing, it is submitted that all of the
claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is
respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor
informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to
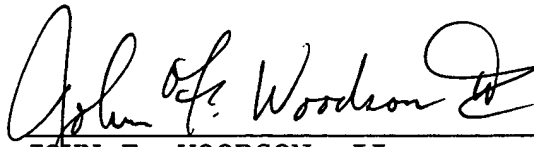
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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

    I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 1st day of September, 2005.

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